



# County of Columbia - Emergency Medical Services

85 Industrial Tract ~ Hudson, New York 12534

(518) 822-8610 Fax: (518) 828-2790

email: info@ccemscoordinator.com

website: www.ccemscoordinator.com

**EMS Coordinator**

P. J. Keeler

**Deputy EMS Coordinators**

Kevin Johnson

Sue VanEgghen

JoAnn Sheehey

Pat Wright

John Silvernail

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Agency Administrators  
**FROM:** P. J. Keeler, EMS Coordinator  
**DATE:** October 26, 2009  
**RE:** H1N1 Update

We continue to monitor the evolving H1N1 pandemic and are in regular contact with county and state officials regarding same. Incidence of influenza like illness is beginning to reach new highs and it is imperative that we be ready to meet an increased demand for service. With that said, we'd like to reiterate some important information and ask for your cooperation with a couple of requests.

### Workforce Depletion

All agencies are asked to begin reporting unusually high levels of employee absenteeism to the EMS Coordinators Office. Such notifications should be made via email or phone to the EMS Coordinator.

### Vaccinations

Information on flu vaccinations for emergency responders has been sent to each agency. Agencies are asked to return the pre-registration form no later than October 30, 2009. Once we have the forms back, we will work with CCDOH to schedule the vaccination clinic.

### Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

Agencies should review their COOP plans to ensure continued performance of essential functions under all circumstances.

### Procurement of Supplies

Agencies are encouraged to inventory operational supplies and ensure adequate reserves (PPE, oxygen therapy equipment, etc).

### Infection Control Precautions

- Wash hands frequently, especially after contact with influenza patient
- Wear a surgical mask at a minimum. N-95 respirator is recommended for close contact especially during medical treatments.
- Wear latex or nitrile gloves whenever caring for a person with influenza like illness or items possibly contaminated with potentially infectious materials.
- Potentially contaminated laundry should be washed in a standard washing machine with warm water and soap.
- Environmental surfaces should be washed frequently with household cleaners or a 10% bleach solution

### Information Dissemination

We will continue to disseminate information to agency contacts via our emergency email distribution list. Agency administrators are asked to forward pertinent information to your members/staff in a timely fashion. Additional information is being posted to our website, www.ccemscoordinator.com, as necessary.

*“Serving the Emergency Medical Needs of Columbia County”*

Chatham Rescue Squad • Community Rescue Squad • Greenport Rescue Squad • Lebanon Valley Protective Association  
Northern Dutchess Paramedics • Philmont Rescue Squad • Valatie Rescue Squad